

ASSOCIATE PRESS

446th Airlift Wing ✕ Air Force Reserve
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February 2005

McChord's Home Team

Volume 27, Issue 2

Wings join forces for exercise

By Staff Sgt. Corinna Quick
◆ 62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings joined forces in an early-February mobility exercise, providing each wing different training opportunities in one fell swoop.

The MOBEX, as it is known, is broken up into three parts - a preparatory training week, followed by a two-phase exercise, said Maj. Daniel Clark, 62nd AW exercise and evaluations chief. The 446th portion of the exercise is called Wildfire '05-02.

"We hope to improve wing readiness and to establish a successful framework for future inspections in which the 62nd AW and 446th AW will be graded together," said Major Clark.

This operational readiness exercise prepares both wings for upcoming inspector general inspections, as well as maintains currency and training in mission-essential tasks during ability to survive and operate scenarios, he said.

Phase I primarily involved the 446th AW Reservists, who are mobilized, processed and simulated deployed to a forward location with support from the 62nd AW.

In Phase II the active-duty wing processed and deployed Airmen to the Echo Ramp and 300-Area of McChord for three days, while the 446th AW focused on the initial response portion of the exercise in preparation for its October inspection.

About nine Reserve units will participate in the MOBEX, including the 86th Aerial Port Squadron, 446th Operations Support Flight, and the 446th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. The 446th AW staff judge advocate, chaplain, historian and public affairs will also participate, said Senior Master Sgt. Margaret Anderson, 446th AW logistics readiness office superintendent.



Photo by Master Sgt. Bud McKay

The Ability To Survive and Operate part of the exercise Feb. 5 allowed Reservists to reacquaint themselves with the proper wear of chemical protection suits and masks.

The 446th AW has been planning with the 62nd AW to merge exercises since 2003, but haven't fully connected until this MOBEX, Sergeant Anderson said.

The 446th AW's main role in this exercise is to assess the readiness of its units and people, said Sergeant Anderson.

"We have to make sure we get our annual exercises accomplished during the fiscal year and continue to build our relationship with the 62nd AW," she said.

Together, the wings had nine aircraft par-

ticipating in the exercise, said Major Clark.

Maintainers from the active-duty and Reserve wings worked together to generate missions, he said.

As a part of the exercise, about 200 446th AW and 200 62nd AW Airmen went through the deployment process, said Major Clark.

Unit deployment managers played an important role in the exercise to make sure their people were ready to go and could process without discrepancies, said Sergeant Anderson.

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Feb. 21 is the deadline for articles in the March issue of the **446th Associate Press**.

All articles and photographs must be turned in to the 446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office, Bldg. 1214, Room 124 by 4 p.m.

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Are people your priority?

Human Resources Development Council offers tools to ensure a happy, productive force

By Col. Eric Crabtree

◆ Wing Commander



Col. Eric Crabtree

People are our most important assets in the Air Force Reserve. How many of us have heard that at meetings, Commander's Calls, and briefings in the last few years? The comment I usually hear about that is there is not enough evidence at the individual level to make it a believable concept. What most of us don't take into account is that we can do more to fix the problem than the staffs at Air Force Reserve Command or Air Mobility Command.

The focus of the 446th Airlift Wing's people programs is the Human Resources Development Council, or HRDC. The council is undergoing some restructuring and refocusing, but the bottom line is all of the people functions of the wing are incorporated into the HRDC process. Whether it is mentoring, career advice, recruiting or diversity of our force, those areas are more focused through the efforts of the HRDC. The development and monitoring of each of the human resource contributors is within the responsibility of the HRDC members.

So what does that mean to the individual wing member and what can he or she do to help make those programs more effective? Part of the answer is in the council itself. Find out who your representatives are who carry issues to the council. Perhaps you would like to become a member of

Find out who your representatives are who carry issues to the council.

Eric Crabtree

one of the many working groups under the council. There is no better way to get a say in the direction an organization will take than joining the people who are steering the processes.

There is no doubt we could all do better in helping our members manage their careers to be

more competitive for promotions and to feel more fulfilled in what they do during their Reserve participation. Mentoring is a process that has so many aspects it would be unrealistic to think anyone has a perfect system. Yet, it is absolutely crucial we give our people the best chance possible to

progress and meet their desires for fulfillment within their career field. The mentoring part of HRDC is meant to provide commanders and supervisors a good framework to work within toward developing a very effective process.

Recruiting is also crucial to the success of any military unit. If we don't have an effective process ensuring we keep our units full and trained, the long term impact can be catastrophic. Our recruiters do a great job of finding us bright, enthusiastic, energetic people. We just have to have a process to get the recruiters help in making contacts and getting the right people into the recruiting system. The HRDC is meant to be an advisor and coworker in that process, so commanders will be delighted with the new members coming to their units.

The final area of focus for the HRDC is diversity. We have events scheduled throughout the year to recognize the many groups who make up our organization for their unique heritages and contributions (such as this month's Black History observance). That is part of the focus of the HRDC in its diversity role. The other part is establishing a process to make sure we mirror the community that surrounds us in social makeup. Any management course you take will tell you that you need a group with many perspectives to find the best solution to any issue or problem. By mirroring our surrounding society we make sure we are getting the right inputs to create that productive diversity. Again, this is an HRDC service to recruiters and commanders.

The bottom line to all of this is for you to be aware of the HRDC and what they contribute to your unit. If you are interested, join the HRDC structure at some level and help steer the current organization and set the course for where it will go in the future. Participate in the special events that are scheduled to recognize our diversity and the contributions of our many groups. Most of all, encourage the development of your coworkers in every way; for the wing cannot help but be stronger for your efforts. Thanks for your help.

Honoring those who made history

February is Black History Month

By 2nd Lt. LaVonne Johnson
◆ Wing Public Affairs

If it weren't for heroic black and white Americans who knocked down the walls of inequality and for the black Americans who pressed through the ugliness of racial discrimination, I wouldn't have the basic civil liberties I enjoy and cherish today. I thank them for their strength, courage, patience, knowledge and wisdom. All qualities I continue to build upon and pray for as I take my journey through life.

I don't know all of their names, I don't know all of their faces, and I don't know all of their deeds. But I do know these heroes helped shape this land of freedom for all races. I call this land my home – the United States of America.

It's my pleasure to honor Black History Month, a month set aside to remember and honor the achievements and contributions of African Americans.

However, in order to honor these heroes, we have to remind ourselves of this country's dark past.

Just like many African Americans, my family's history dates back to the days of slavery. My grandmother's father was born in slavery. The plantation he lived on and worked on is now a historic landmark in southern Virginia.

My grandmother told me she remembers sitting only in the back of the bus and



2nd Lt.
LaVonne Johnson

her seat to a white man in Montgomery, Ala., on Dec. 1, 1955. Her arrest resulted in a mass boycott of city buses and brought the civil rights movement and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to national prominence.

Dr. King was instrumental in breaking the strong hold of racial segregation and bringing unprecedented visibility and support to the cause of racial equality.

Racial inequality plagued all sectors of society. Even the military was plagued by racial segregation. However, we were fortunate to have black men like the Tuskegee Airmen who helped pave the way for integration in the Air Force.

The black pilots were trained under the first all-black military aviation program at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, which was created in 1941. Their accomplishments during World War II didn't go unnoticed. The fighter pilots never lost to enemy fire a bomber they were escorting.

A retired master sergeant, who joined the Army Air Corps in 1946, told me that blacks and whites trained separately and had separate mess halls, and were even segregated on troop ships at the bottom of

not being able to sit in restaurants. She said they had to get their food at a carry-out window.

These injustices no longer happen because of people like Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rosa Parks refused to give up

the hold. He said he was a part of a race riot that got the attention of leaders in Washington.

In 1948, President Harry Truman signed an executive order that integrated the armed forces. This sergeant said he had no racial problems after that.

Kudos to the military for making changes, before society at large, enforcing a fundamental and moral fact that all men are created equal. The civilian culture didn't begin to make changes until after the Brown v. Board of Education case in 1954, in which the Supreme Court of the United States declared racial segregation in public schools to be unconstitutional.

The latest Civil Rights Act was signed in 1991 by President George H.W. Bush to strengthen existing civil rights laws and provide for damages in cases of intentional employment discrimination.

Laws alone can't change the mind set of individuals, but it's a move in the right direction.

I'm sure my heartfelt appreciation and sincere gratitude is echoed by many for the master sergeant who retired after 27 years of active duty, the Tuskegee Airmen, Rosa Parks, Dr. King, and many more who endured racial hardship and created an equitable path for the black race.

As Maya Angelou said, "Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, I am the dream and the hope of the slave. I rise, I rise, I rise."

In 2000, I enlisted in the Air Force Reserve. I had no racial obstacles to struggle with, only the obstacle course that challenged me physically. I not only survived basic training, I survived the Academy of Military Science and earned my commission in 2004.

Now, I serve my country side-by-side with all races. We live in the same neighborhoods and we eat at the same restaurants. We have multi-racial friendships, marriages and families. We are an integrated society.

Dr. King's dream can now be seen. He said, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed – 'we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'"

So, I honor those who came before me. I honor those who made a difference.

At A Glance

We owe this annual celebration that began initially as Negro History Week in 1926 and evolved into Black History Month in 1976 to Dr. Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950), who was born to parents who were former slaves, spent his childhood working in coal mines and enrolled in high school at age 20. He graduated within two years and later earned a Ph.D. in history from Harvard University. Dr. Woodson said "Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history."

McChord crews, aircraft provide relief

As people began to learn of the devastation caused by the tsunami that ripped through Southeast Asia last December, aircrews from the 446th and 62nd Airlift Wings deployed in a massive U.S. attempt to deliver aid to the ravaged region.

Participating in the joint service endeavor Operation Unified Assistance, McChord C-17s contributed to the 80 missions flown by Air Mobility Command, which delivered 2,784 tons of lifesaving cargo to the area.

While the 446th Airlift Wing flew some missions in direct support of tsunami relief, they contributed more to the effort by picking up extra Operation Iraqi Freedom stage missions, freeing up the active-duty crews for tsunami relief operations.

Lt. Col. Chris Von Thaden, 728th Airlift Squadron, flew in support of tsunami relief. "It's a great feeling to be able to help someone in their time of need," he said. "I have gotten to see how the kindness and generosity of Americans is making a difference and it really is overwhelming."

Crews from the 62nd AW deployed to Thailand in the days following the disaster. Four McChord C-17s were staged in Utapao, which was used as a hub to distribute essentials such as food, water, and building supplies to areas affected by the tsunami.

Keeping the flow of supplies going took teamwork from all areas of McChord.

"None of us could be here to help without the tremendous amount of support we get from back home," said Colonel Von



Photo by Airman First Class Michael Pallazola
Airmen from the 733rd Air Mobility Squadron, Kadena AB, Japan load a C-17 Globemaster bound for Banda Ache, Indonesia, Jan. 9, 2005 in ongoing humanitarian relief.

Thaden. "The maintainers working 12-hour shifts to keep the planes moving, our families coping without us, and everyone else who works harder so we can be here to help, are the real heroes of this story."

In addition to the aircrew and aircraft from McChord, the 62nd AW commander, Col. Wayne Schatz, deployed to Hickam AFB, Hawaii, as deputy director of mobility forces for the relief operation. He coordinated the airlift operations involving active and Reserve components from more than 10 AMC units.

As of Feb. 5, U.S. forces have been re-

sponsible for delivering more than 4,500 tons of relief supplies during the initial stage of operations, according to the Combined Support Force-536, the headquarters in charge of the region.

The commander of Combined Support Force-536 has announced the remaining U.S. troops in the region will redeploy, as the relief effort switches gears for the long term.

The mission will now be picked up by USAID, the prime governmental agency for extending aid to foreign countries. *(Compiled from Air Force News Service and local sources)*

Understand tuition assistance use rules

Tuition assistance is a benefit that comes with serving in the Air Force Reserve, but to really take advantage of it you must understand how it works.

To take advantage of TA, enlisted Airmen must be able to complete the course TA is applied to before their enlistment expires. Officers must have, upon completion of a course, at least 24 months left prior to their mandatory separation date. Additionally, officers must sign a contract for Reserve Service Commitment and agree to remain

in selected Reserve for two years beyond the class end date.

Members must be actively participating and in good standing to use TA and any Airmen excused for multiple unit training assemblies will be considered as "not participating."

TA is for higher education, so a Reservist must already have a high school diploma or equivalent before using this education benefit. Airmen cannot draw TA for courses that lead to a degree at a level they already hold. However, there are two exceptions to this requirement. First,

TA can be used if a member already holds a degree and is now taking courses toward a Community College of the Air Force associate degree for which the individual is eligible. Second, TA can be used for courses leading to teacher certification, regardless of other degrees held.

Reservists cannot use their Montgomery GI Bill or Chapter 1606 with TA for the same courses, with few exceptions. However, Airmen may use their TA for additional courses for which they are not claiming or requesting MGIB benefits.

Reservists must provide a degree plan to 446th Mission Support Squadron training office by the time three TA-funded courses (or nine semester hours or equivalent) are completed. Airmen must provide a copy of their receipt from school verifying actual tuition paid.

All tuition assistance paperwork must be submitted at least seven to 10 days prior to, but no earlier than 60 days before, the class start date. For more information, call 982-2300. *(Courtesy 446th Mission Support Squadron training office)*

Loadmasters save lives, aircraft

By 2nd Lt. LaVonne Johnson
◆ Wing Public Affairs

Two Air Force Reservists here were presented Jan. 11 with medals for extraordinary achievement for their heroic acts that resulted in saving lives and two \$200 million aircraft.

Tech. Sgt. Eric Olson, a loadmaster with the 313th Airlift Squadron, was presented the Distinguished Flying Cross for his participation in safely land-

ing a C-17 after it was struck by enemy fire on departure from Baghdad International Airport Dec. 9, 2003. Sergeant Olson executed emergency action checklists, tended to a wounded passenger, and calmly prepared other passengers for an emergency landing.

During a ceremony Dec. 22, 2003, Sergeant Olson was presented an Air Medal by Vice President Dick Cheney. The medal was upgraded.

Tech. Sgt. Robert Withrow, also a loadmaster with the 313th AS, was presented the Airmen's Medal for his quick response in extinguishing a fire that engulfed the landing gear of a C-17 upon landing in Uzbekistan April 16, 2003.

Sergeant Withrow saved the lives of six crew members when he, upon opening the entry door, saw the raging flames, notified the crew, and then went into action. He grabbed extinguishers

in both hands, rushed beneath the aircraft and within one minute had the fire under control.

"I just did what any other loadmaster would've done," said Sergeant Withrow.

Both NCOs were mobilized to active duty Dec. 1, 2004 to continue to support the war on terrorism.

The medals were presented by Maj. Gen. Robert Duignan, 4th Air Force commander.

Association honors wing chaplain

By Master Sgt. Bud McKay
◆ Wing Public Affairs

When you are considered one of the best in your chosen career, you shouldn't be sorry for it.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Ranson, 446th Airlift Wing, is the Reserve Officer Association's Chaplain of the Year for 2004. When you talk to him, he sounds almost apologetic he received any award at all.

"To be honest, it feels awkward to get the award," Chaplain Ranson said. "Don't get me wrong, the award is an honor, but there are so many other chaplains, like Army and Navy chaplains, who are deployed and right in the middle of the shooting match overseas. But all of us who do this are successful because it's all part of the team effort."

But the Reserve chaplain has thrown himself into the shooting match in the Middle East four times already and he believes that's why he earned the award. Not so much for being there, but for the programs he helped take care of while deployed.

"At Kirkuk (Iraq), we were rocketed no less than 47 times in the 90 days I was there," Chaplain Ranson said. "They were mostly single launches, but there were some multiple launches as well. Not too far away, you could hear the car bombings, too. But in between those, we did a lot of counseling and just plain old-fashioned visits with the troops."

Chaplain Ranson, like almost everyone else who found themselves deployed, averaged about a 14-hour work day. Working



Chaplain (Lt. Col.)
Gary Ranson

the normal (away from) home stressors as well."

A war zone is about the last place you would think there would be any concern over smoking. But Chaplain Ranson ensured there was space available for smoking cessation classes and worked with the life skills specialists to teach the class.

"There were always a number of people there trying to quit smoking," Chaplain Ranson said. "That's the last place I thought you'd see that."

But like any war zone, there was death to deal with and people to counsel. For example, the chaplain said while he was there, an Office of Special Investigations agent had been wounded and was expected to recover. However, when Chaplain Ranson escorted the OSI commander into the surgical tent to visit the agent, they learned the agent had died.

"Understandably, that really shook them up," he said. "We brought them back into our office and counseled them and tried to

primarily with the support group side, Chaplain Ranson had a briefing room for counseling — mostly helping troops who received "Dear John" letters.

"We had a lot of those," he said. "Plus they were dealing with

help them get through this tragic event."

There were many little touches Chaplain Ranson and the rest of the chaplain team did while deployed to help make life a little more bearable for the deployed troops. Chaplain Ranson took with him a latte machine and some donated coffee and was an instant celebrity when the fragrance of fresh drinks hit the air. One of the chaplain assistants helped organize an effort with female Soldiers to bring ladies hair care products and services to the war zone.

"Sometimes, it's the small things that can really make a difference," Chaplain Ranson said.

As for the award, Chaplain Ranson said it's nice, but it doesn't change anything. He's heading back to Kuwait soon for a 120-day deployment and to do basically the same things he's done before. And after being through Kirkuk attacks, he said he can handle just about anything.

"That was the first time I was really near a real shooting match," he said. "You go into it with anxiety — yes, even chaplains have anxiety. You wonder 'Am I going to fall apart at the first sound of gunfire? But we all did pretty well, considering what we've been through. Everything else is pretty mild after that.'"

But there is nothing mild anywhere in Southwest Asia. Is he worried about going back over there? Not at all, he said.

"People are paying more attention to God it seems," he said. "That's good for business."

General Batbie retires after 39 years

Maj. Gen. John Batbie Air Force Reserve Command vice commander, retired after nearly 39 years of military service in a ceremony Jan. 21 at the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins, Ga.

Retired Lt. Gen. James Sherrard III, former Air Force Reserve chief and AFRC commander, officiated the ceremony. General Batbie's retirement will take effect March 15.

Maj. Gen. David Tanzi, 10th Air Force

commander, assumed responsibility for the daily operations of the command Jan. 21.

"Needless to say, the operations tempo for this command was near its peak when I returned to AFRC's headquarters as the vice commander in November of 2001," said General Batbie. "The credit for AFRC's continued success goes to the more than 76,000 Reservists and 4,000 civilians I had the privilege to work with."

As the vice commander, General Batbie oversaw the day-to-day operations for the Air Force Reserve Command. AFRC has about 76,100 Reservists who train and deploy regularly. The command is composed of three numbered Air Forces divided into 36 wings, three flying groups, one space group, four space operations squadrons and 620 mission support units. *(Courtesy of Air Force Reserve Command News Service)*

Peek into your Air Force history on web

By Maj. Rich Curry
◆ Tinker AFB, Okla.

It is not often when someone has a chance to peer into the past, present and future at the same time. Fortunately, the vision of an Air Force historian has done just that with the creation of an online repository of Air Force basic training flight graduation photos.

Tech. Sgt. Tracy English, a 37th Training Wing historian at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, said he recognized that a part of the Air Force's history, basic training flights photos, was becoming lost to the ravages of time. Knowing this, he decided to try and retrieve as many images as possible before they were lost forever. Sergeant English set out to find the contractors who were hired to take each flight graduation photo.

"It took several months of searching and going through the Better Business Bureau to (find) some of the original contractors. After spending all that time searching, we learned that the contractor policy was to only keep original photographs for 90 days before throwing them away," he said.

Back to square one, the historian took a different tact and established a Web site to announce the project as well as to solicit photographs. After 12 months, Sergeant English has

collected roughly 2,000 photos, and estimates there are only 117,000 to go.

He said his two-person office is receiving a steady stream of submissions and they are working weekends to keep up to date.

The project is a way to help the Air Force and Airmen alike trace their roots, he said. It seeks to collect all of about 119,000 U.S. Air Force basic training flight photos from the inception of the Air Force in 1947 to present.

The collection includes photos from all the bases that conducted Air Force basic training including Lackland; Sampson AFB, N.Y.; Parks AFB, Calif.; Amarillo AFB, Texas; and Sheppard AFB, Texas.

Since the project started, Sergeant English said his office has received roughly 120 pieces of mail and 600 e-mail messages every month with people asking for specific photographs or sending photos for the Web site.

"We didn't see all the ramifications of this project when we started it," Sergeant English said. "We have people looking for some memento of deceased parents, or people who have lost all of their military records (in) a fire or flood and just want to provide some form of evidence that they had served in the Air Force."

"A lot of people had their military records destroyed during a military records warehouse fire in St. Louis in the 1970s. We've



Senior Master Sgt. Margaret Anderson, 446th Logistics Readiness Flight

Courtesy photo

Air Force Basic Military Training flight photos such as this one are being posted on a Web site maintained by the 37th Training Wing historian, Lackland AFB, Texas.

even had people trying to look up and meet with members from their training flight from 50 years ago," he said.

Airmen may look for their graduation photo online at www.lackland.af.mil/info/photos.asp.

If the photo is not there, people can check back at a later date. If people have photos not currently online, they can submit them, Sergeant English said.

People can submit high-quality scanned images via e-mail to 37TRW.HO@Lackland.af.mil. Hard copies can be sent through the U.S. mail system to: 37TRW/HO, 1650 Carswell Ave., Lackland AFB, TX 78236.

People who have an oversized photo can scan it in halves (or copy both halves) and send them in. The history office staff said they can put them together.

Sergeant English said they prefer photos in a digital format (JPG), however, they will accept any format provided.

Sergeant English said it may take time to get the photos posted online.

"We only have two people assigned to our office. We're excited about this project and are even working lots of extra time to keep it going, but we have to sleep sometime," he joked. *(Courtesy Air Force News Service)*

Wildfire '05-02

A mobility exercise dubbed Wildfire '05-02 involved more than 196 Reservists from throughout the wing Feb. 5. Left: Master Sgt. Bud McKay, 446th Airlift Wing, has his shot records checked in the mobility processing line. Bottom left: Airman First Class Helen Dickinson, 446th Mission Support Squadron, checks the seal on her gas mask during Ability to Survive and Operate training. Bottom right: "Deployed" Reservists off-load a C-17 after "returning" to McChord.



Photo by 1st Lt. Larry Kohlman



Photo by Master Sgt. Bud McKay



Photo by 1st Lt. Larry Kohlman

Top Air Force chief visits Reservists

By Tech. Sgt. Carrie Bernard
62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray highlighted the Air Force's airlift mission during a three-day visit to McChord in January. Chief Murray met with Airmen from across the base, including 446th Airlift Wing Reservists.

"We could not do what we do in the United States military and as a nation without our great airlifters," Chief Murray said. "Our airlift is what makes us a global power."

From moving people, equipment and supplies in and out of Iraq, to providing humanitarian relief for tsunami victims, it is absolutely apparent how important airlift is, he said.

"I think sometimes in our Air Force we make it look too easy," he said. "It's not easy at all. But there is no doubt how great our Airmen are performing in the mission we have here."

Although the Air Force continues to excel, the chief said Air Force leaders understand the amount of stress that comes with that success.

"As we look at the ops tempo we're under in today's Air Force — our deployment pace, the war going on, Airmen who deploy away from their subordinates, supervisors and first sergeants — it all adds up to a lot of stress," he said.

Those stressors make one-on-one leadership even more important, Chief Murray said.

"Face-to-face leadership is so critical," he said. "Especially in the world today, when

it's so easy to get things done using items like e-mail and not get out among (the) people.

"It's not about programs," the chief said. "It's about small group leadership and supporting one another — supervisor to subordinate, peers to peers — to keep stress under control."

Beyond focusing on Airmen taking care of Airmen, leaders are also constantly looking at what can be done to provide a balance in the expeditionary global force, he said. One example of this is distributing stressors, like deployments, equally, so not just one Air Force specialty or functional area is overextended.

"We are continuing to focus on the expeditionary process that deploys people at 120 days at a time and returns them home in a 20-month cycle so they have more time at home, as well as a predictability of when they will deploy and when they will return," Chief Murray said. "We are also looking at distributing those deployments in a way that's more equitable to all Airmen and getting more Airmen into the deployment pool."

With one eye on Airman and the other on the future of the force, the chief said he believes the Air Force's operations tempo will



Photo by Kristin Royalty

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray speaks to members of the 446th Airlift Wing about issues concerning Reservists during his visit here Jan. 10-12.

remain the same throughout 2005.

"I don't think we're going to slow down any, that's for sure," he said. "We will continue to project air and space power globally, from the global war on terrorism to supporting natural disasters and anything else that may come our way."

Besides continuing operations around the globe, this year will also bring issues closer to home, the chief said.

"We will prepare also for the announcement of base realignments and closures," Chief Murray said. "That's something our Airmen need to stay attuned to — not be worried about, but just educated on. It's a process that's ongoing now and is something that will shape the future of the military."

Andro' supplement now off limits

By Staff Sgt. Todd Lopez
♦ Air Force Print News

Under a new law that took effect Jan. 20, the prohormone androstenedione is classified as a Schedule III controlled substance. Schedule III substances are those defined by the government as having potential for abuse.

The drug, commonly called

"andro," is used by bodybuilders to help build mass, said Col. (Dr.) Vincent F. Carr, the Air Force's chief consultant for internal medicine services.

"Andro includes a number of compounds which altogether are a precursor to the male hormone testosterone," Dr. Carr said. "Folks take this to bulk up their muscles and increase their ability to weight lift and to gain en-

durance for their exercise programs."

Androstenedione is found in many bodybuilding supplements that are available in nutrition and fitness stores. But Lt. Col. Ronald L. Blakely, the staff food and drug safety officer for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, said the products are no longer available in AAFES stores. General Nutrition Center

concessions also no longer sell "andro" or "nor-andro" products.

On Jan. 20, androstenedione could no longer be legally purchased. It also became illegal to use the prohormone, even if it was purchased before then. Use, possession, or distribution of androstenedione after Jan. 20 will be a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Employer Orientation Day

April 2, 2005

Return this completed form to:
 446th AW/PA
 1205 12th St NE, Suite 102W
 McChord AFB WA 98438-1326
 Fax: 253-982-0078
 Email: 446AW.pa@mcchord.af.mil
 Deadline: March 11, 2005



Office use only

Status: _____
 Date received: _____
 Prior participation: _____
 Invite/standby: _____
 Invite sent: _____
 Accept/decline: _____

RESERVIST'S INFORMATION

Rank/name: _____ Unit: _____ Duty phone: _____
 Home address: _____ Home E-mail: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Home phone: () _____ Military position title: _____
 Civilian position title: _____ Civilian work phone: () _____

EMPLOYER'S INFORMATION

Supervisor's courtesy title/full name(Mr./Mrs./Ms) _____
 Supervisor's title/position: _____ **SSAN: _____
 Company name: _____ E-mail: _____
 Business address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Business phone: () _____ Home phone: () _____
 Emergency contact name/daytime phone _____ Relationship: _____

I acknowledge I am responsible for notifying my military supervisor if my employer will attend. I will be on duty status April 2. I will provide a workplace tour for my supervisor. There will be a nominal cost for my lunch. There is no charge for my employer's lunch. My supervisor has not participated in any other Employer Orientation Day.

Reservist's signature: _____ Date: _____

****PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT:** Information requested is affected by the Privacy Act of 1974. Authority for requesting this information from you is Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 8012 (Secretary of the Air Force, Powers and Duties Delegated by) and Executive Order 9397 (Numbering System for Federal Accounts Relating to Individual Persons). This information is required to manifest passengers for a C-17 orientation flight. Social Security Number is used to make positive identification of the individual applicant. Disclosure is voluntary. However, participants will be denied boarding for the C-17 orientation flight without the requested information.

BRIEF

"A nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten"

— Calvin Coolidge

**February
2005**

Did you KNOW

In February 2001, Reservist Chief Master Sgt. Cheryl Denise Adams became first African-American woman in to hold the post of command chief master sergeant for a major command.

Mariners honor military April 5

The Seattle Mariners will again honor all military members and veterans in a Salute to the Armed Forces at their April 5 game at Safeco Field. Normally \$17, tickets at a cost of \$10 can be ordered through the 446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office. Tickets purchased by Reservists subsequently deployed can be returned for a refund.

The April 5 game is against the Minnesota Twins at 7:05 p.m. Tickets will be ordered by March 16 so all money needs to be to the 446th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office by COB that day. Make checks out to 446th Orientation Tour. Call Public Affairs for more information, 982-3330 or 982-9134.

Bldg. 1205 closes temporarily

Bldg. 1205 occupants will be temporarily moving to Bldg. 708 during the renovation of Bldg. 1205. Bldg. 1205 will be closed March 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for a building clean up in preparation of the move. Building occupants include the 446th Mission Support Group, 446th Mission Support Squadron, and the military personnel flight. Occupants will move to 708 on April 20-22. For more information, call 982-9109.

Master sergeant slots available

Two traditional Reservist master sergeant slots are available in the 446th Logistic Readiness Flight office. Anyone holding the minimum grade of E-6 or E-5, with readiness experience, can apply. For more information, contact 1st Lt. Kristi Porter at 982-3184.

Mileage rate goes up

As of Feb. 4, the new mileage reimbursement rates for federal employees who use privately-owned vehicles while on official travel are as follows:

Automobile - \$0.405 per mile.

Airplane - \$1.07 per mile

Motorcycle - \$0.305 per mile

Additionally, based on updated data for the two-tiered reimbursement rates reflecting costs to an agency of operating a government-furnished vehicle, the current reimbursement rate of \$0.270 per mile increased to \$0.285 per mile (when a GFV is available to an employee).

The current reimbursement rate of \$0.105 per mile (when a GFV is assigned directly to an employee) will remain the same.

Times for military testing changes

Effective April 1, the following new testing days and times will be strictly enforced. Up to that time and during the transition, if someone is already scheduled to test, they can stay on that date and time. Anyone wishing to test after April 1 April, will test during the below test periods for the particular type of test. This will ensure testing personnel are available and maximize use of the testing facility.

E-Exams, which is electronic testing on certain predetermined courses (course 12, SOS, ACSC and all others coming down the line): Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. — by appointment only; Paper Career Development Course and Professional Military Education, Wednesday and Friday, 8 a.m. - by appointment only.

UTA testing will be done as follows: E-exam, Saturday, 9 a.m. - by appointment only; paper testing, Sunday at 9 a.m. - by appointment only

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Senior Master Sgt. Cheri Lewis at 982-9107 or Lt. Col. Donna Refuerzo at 982-9072.

Nominate employers for 2005 award

The nomination period for the 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Awards is now open. Reserv-

ists are encouraged to nominate their outstanding employers for this prestigious award. The Freedom Award recognizes employers who provide exceptional support to their employees who voluntarily serve the nation in the National Guard and Reserve. The award is the highest in a series of ESGR awards that include the Patriot Award, the Above and Beyond Award, and the Pro Patria Award. The categories for the Freedom Award include: major corporations (100 or more employees), small corporations (less than 100 employees), and public sector (federal, city, state, municipalities, police and fire departments, or any entity funded by tax dollars). To nominate an employer for this award, go to the ESGR web site at www.esgr.mil. Deadline is Feb. 24

Total Force Top 3, USAA Scholarships

The Total Force Top 3, USAA scholarship committee is offering scholarships for tuition, books and/or academic fees at a regionally accredited college or university for the 2005 academic year. Application packages must be postmarked no later than March 31. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Kim Hagerty at (800) 223-1784, Ext.- 7-1972, or Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Fuqua at (800) 223-1784, Ext. 7-2181.

AFRC hiring recruiters

The Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Squadron is accepting applications for recruiting duty. This can be the most challenging and self-gratifying job you will ever have. Only the best need apply. As a Reserve recruiter you'll have the opportunity to serve on active duty as an AGR and enjoy the outstanding benefits as well. It's a tough, tremendously challenging, satisfying and rewarding job.

If you are interested in applying, call Senior Master Sgt. John Roberts, senior recruiter, at 253-982-9084.



Photo by Kevin Tosh

Edward Norris, 446 AW team, tries to shoot past Donnie Davis, 62nd CES, for a score during the 446 vs CES basketball game, Jan. 31. CES won 57-47. The 446th AW team is 3-7 in Intramural Basketball standings as of Feb. 7.

Feb. 17	5:30 p.m.	446 vs. OSS
Feb. 23	7:30 p.m.	MED GP vs. 446 F
March 1	6:30 p.m.	446 vs. FLYERS
March 3	6:30 p.m.	FLYERS vs. 446
March 4	6:30 p.m.	WADS vs. 446

All games are played at the Fit for Freedom Fitness Center.

Promotions

Staff Sergeant

Lance Nelson, 728th AS

Senior Airman

Brian Soriano, 36th APS

Airman First Class

Anayansi Hammond, 446th MSS

William Thias, 728th AS

Airman

Erik Merrill, 446th ASTS

Newcomers

Major

Daryl Janes, 313th AS

Captain

Eric Von Trotha, 313th AS

First Lieutenant

Kristi Porter, 446th LRF

Second Lieutenant

Colby Harrell, 97th AS

Technical Sergeant

Audie Rodrickc, 446th AES

Staff Sergeant

Crystal Council, 446th MXS

Tracey Kita, 446th SFS

Jonathon Lowen, 446th MXS

Jay Pandya, 446th AMDS

Senior Airman

Batina Afford, 446th AES

Gabriel Benjamin, 313th AS

Jennifer Evans, 446th CES

Berwyn Gonzalvo, 446th ASTS

Todd Mantle, 86th APS

Nicholas Przybyciel, 446th AW

Anita Sutton, 446th MSS

Airman First Class

Roman Abundiz, 446th AMXS

Desiree Cordas, 446th MXS

Trenton Ghorley, 728th AS

Carl Leach, 446th AMXS

Koji Machado, 446th AMDS

Laurin McElheran, 446th AMXS

Melissa Pugh, 446th AMDS

Jonathon Ross, 36th APS

Jessica Stevens, 446th ASTS

Airman

Richard Maser, 446th AMDS

Nathan Ramsey, 446th AMDS

Mackenzie Wohleb, 446th CES

Retirements

Lieutenant Colonel

Rogers Simms, 446th ASTS

Technical Sergeant

Michael Roth, 446th MXS

Quarterly Award Winners

Airman

Senior Airman James

Hoeper, 86th APS

NCO

Tech. Sgt. Michael Harms, 313th AS

SNCO

Senior Master Sgt. Robert Belletti, 446th AMXS

Five make colonel

Five leaders in the 446th Airlift Wing have been selected for promotion to the rank of colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

Making the grade are Lt. Cols. Jon Huguley, 446th Maintenance Group, Michael

Keenan, 313th Airlift Squadron, Charles McNeil, 728th Airlift Squadron, Jan Moore-Harbert, 446th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, and Donald Sinden, 446th Aerospace Medicine Squadron.



Enter the portal for training, pay

By Senior Airman Paul Haley
♦ Wing Public Affairs

Airmen who feel they already have to contend with too many computer passwords may not be happy with the following: they need to sign up for another one. However, this one promises to eliminate many of the others.

The Air Force Portal provides a central point from which to access many different sites and consolidates passwords for most Internet-accessible applications. Once signed into the portal, a person can move to many different sites and address his or her needs, without signing in to each site individually.

"It's one-stop shopping for all Airmen," says Master Sgt. Cindy Thomas, 446th Airlift Wing command staff workgroup manager.

According to Sergeant Thomas, Airmen can use the portal to get pay statements, their fitness information, and find out different things going on at their base, unit, or within Air Force Reserve Command. Also, as of Jan. 24, all Information Assurance Com-

At A Glance

To register for an Air Force Portal account, go to <http://www.my.af.mil>. In the lower left-hand corner of the page, in the box labeled "Activate Your Account," click the "Register" button. From there, follow the directions and you will be done in less than five minutes.

puter Based Training is conducted through the Air Force Portal. Since CBT is mandatory, all Airmen and Air Force civilians should sign up for the portal as soon as possible.

In addition to eliminating multi passwords, the portal offers another perk - instant messaging. The portal now has an instant messenger service.

The instant messenger allows Airmen to communicate from anywhere in the world,

Sergeant Thomas said. The messenger was originally designed for official use, but now allows users to speak to friends and relatives while deployed. Airman may register up to five people outside the Air Force to connect online with through the portal. No special software is needed since the messenger is entirely web-based.

And while at home or on the road, users can check their office Web mail or tap into any of the Portal's seven major categories: AF Home, My Org, My Base, My Workspace, Library, Career and Life. In addition, the main menu features the latest Air Force news, a search engine, a section for favorite Web sites, the Air Force White Pages for tracking workers and an A-Z section covering a gamut of information such as military acronyms and a dictionary of military terms.

Users can customize the Portal to accommodate personal preferences for sites and display.

The Air Force Portal can be found at <http://www.my.af.mil> (Air Force News Service contributed to this story)

446th Associate Press



The Associate Press is printed for associates like 2nd Lt. Andrew Soleimany, 446th Mission Support Group.

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